

# Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



Photo Credit: USFWS/Ravin Thomasson

## A Message from Monomoy

Meetings ruled the agenda for staff this week, as the islands were only visited twice this week on 8/12 and 8/13. Of the most desirable business opportunities was attending the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group meeting on Hog Island in Bremen, ME and the American Oystercatcher Working Group Meeting in Bar Harbor, ME. Monomoy staff would like to take this opportunity to wish individuals on fire assignment out west good luck including complex staff Kaiti Titherington, Tom Eagle, and Chad Roderick. Be safe!

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb them!

## 2015 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

## Bird Sightings

Ring-billed gull  
Iceland gull  
Bonaparte's gull  
Greater yellowlegs  
Whimbrel  
Long-billed curlew  
Barn swallow  
Tree swallow  
Ruddy turnstone  
Killdeer  
Black-bellied plover  
Semipalmated plover  
Semipalmated sandpiper  
Spotted sandpiper  
Solitary sandpiper  
Least sandpiper  
Semipalmated sandpiper  
Long-billed dowitcher  
Short-billed dowitcher  
Red Knot  
Sanderling  
Dunlin  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Marbled Godwit  
Black tern  
White-winged scoter

Black scoter  
Common eider  
Red-breasted merganser  
Blue-winged teal  
Green-winged teal  
Gadwall  
American black duck  
Mallard  
Northern Gannet  
Horned lark  
Saltmarsh sparrow  
Magnolia warbler  
Common yellowthroat  
Yellow Warbler  
American goldfinch  
Gray catbird  
Song Sparrow  
Savannah sparrow  
Eastern towhee  
Eastern kingbird  
Turkey vulture  
Peregrine falcon  
Bald eagle  
Red-winged blackbird  
American bittern  
Virginia Rail

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### Photo of the Week



Resight Mania on Minimoy Island  
Photo Credit: USFWS/Claire Revekant

## **Bird Activity**

### Piping Plovers (PIPL)

The last unfledged chick on SMNY seen on 7/28 was not documented on the Refuge this week. Staff will no longer monitor this missing brood. Preliminary results conclude 63 fledged chicks between 31 broods on South Monomoy Island.

43 PIPL pairs nested on SMNY, one pair nested on Minimoy, and one pair nested on NMNY this season. Between these pairs, nine failed to hatch chicks and six failed to fledge chicks.

### American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

Minimoy was checked once this week on 8/13 with its only fledged chick spotted with its parents. The west brood was not checked this week, although the pair down at Powder Hole was documented with three fledged chicks on 8/13. Another surprise! As it stands, South Monomoy Island has 11 fledged chicks between five broods and three unfledged chicks from one brood. These chicks are expected to fledge on 8/19.

On 8/11, staff attended the American Oystercatcher Working Group meeting in Bar Harbo, ME. See below for more details.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of staging AMOYs in the coming weeks, but notes no new individuals so far.

If you see a banded AMOY, please report their band to the American Oystercatcher Working Group website at <http://amoywg.org/banding-re-sighting/>.

### Common Terns (COTE) & Roseate Terns (ROST)

Productivity continues to wind down in the colony with ten more plots closing this week for a total of 27, and 8 plots left active. Most of what remains are large chicks close to fledging. Plots will be monitored until the last remaining nests have hatched and B-census chicks have fledged/reached 23 days.

Staff was busy attending the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) meeting in Maine at Hog Island on 8/10 (read below for more details). Therefore, productivity was conducted once this week on 8/12. Data entry for report has been the priority for staff.

Staging counts were not conducted this week, but staff hopes to continue these surveys in the coming weeks, time permitted. If you see a banded tern, please report their

code/number to Kate Iaquinto at [Kate\\_Iaquinto@fws.gov](mailto:Kate_Iaquinto@fws.gov). Reporting bands is extremely important to researchers tracking the movements of these birds.

### Black Skimmers (BLSK)

BLSK were not seen on the Refuge or South Beach this week.

### Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report.

### Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

No new information to report.

## **Roseate habitat restoration Project**

No new information to report.

## **Nanotag Project**

No new information to report. Staff and researchers continue to note birds leaving the area/Refuge.

## **Salt Marsh Integrity**

Staff received the necessary parts to install the last water levellogger (WLL) on Minimoy Island. Staff plans to install the WLL sometime next week while also laying down the feldspar plots for the SETs at all three of our study sites; North Monomoy Island, Hospital Pond/Minimoy Island, and Morris Island.

## **GOMSWG: Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group**

Monomoy staff travelled to Hog Island in Bremen, ME on 8/9 and 8/10 for the GOMSWG meeting to present their preliminary productivity numbers for terns. Other sites and islands belonging to the working group (see below) also attended the meeting to present their numbers for common terns, roseate terns, Atlantic puffins, black guillemots, razorbills, and other monitored seabirds. Working group members have worked together for many years in efforts to restore seabird populations in one the most productive ecosystems in the world, the Gulf of Maine. While Monomoy staff learned a lot about feeding and productivity from the other islands, it was especially interesting to hear how Pond Island, located at the mouth of the Kennebec River in Georgetown, ME, recorded their first ever nesting Arctic tern since monitoring began in 1973. In the afternoon, staff listened to current research projects occurring along the Gulf of Maine.



### **AMOYWG: American Oystercatcher Working Group**

Staff travelled to Bar Harbor, ME in attendance for the AMOYWG meeting on 8/11. Staff presented and listened to member's synopses on this years field season including information on their monitoring programs, productivity, and issues encountered throughout the season. Members in attendance included representatives from TX, LA, FL, GA, SC, NC, VA, NJ, NY, CT, MA, ME, and Mexico. The morning was spent addressing WG business, while the afternoon was spent listening to international presentations from partners in Mexico.

### **Current & Upcoming Events**

#### **Staging Counts**

**August**

#### **GOMSWG**

**August 10**

#### **AMOY Working Group Meeting**

**August 11**

#### **"The Fury of the Tempest" Talk**

**August 12**

#### **Red Knot Cannon Netting**

**Sept 13-17**

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					